

From glowbugs@theporch.com Mon Mar 11 16:41:58 1996
Return-Path: glowbugs@theporch.com
Received: from uro (localhost.theporch.com [127.0.0.1]) by uro.theporch.com
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Message-Id: <199603112220.QAA17189@uro.theporch.com>
Errors-To: ws4s@midtenn.net
Reply-To: glowbugs@theporch.com
Originator: glowbugs@theporch.com
Sender: glowbugs@theporch.com
Precedence: bulk
From: glowbugs@theporch.com
To: Multiple recipients of list <glowbugs@theporch.com>
Subject: GLOWBUGS digest 127
X-Listprocessor-Version: 6.0c -- ListProcessor by Anastasios Kotsikonas
X-Comment: Please send list server requests to listproc@theporch.com
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GLOWBUGS Digest 127

Topics covered in this issue include:

- 1) Gone QRO
by ks0f@i1.net (MIKE SANDERS)
- 2) Re: Gell Cells
by rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu
- 3) Re: Gell Cells
by rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu
- 4) Re: 3579.545
by rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu
- 5) Anyone on tonight?
by rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu

Date: Sun, 10 Mar 1996 18:14:37 -0600
From: ks0f@i1.net (MIKE SANDERS)
To: boatanchors@theporch.com
Cc: glowbugs@theporch.com
Subject: Gone QRO
Message-ID: <199603110012.SAA14019@mail1.i1.net>

Greetings All,

After great success with the old homebrew 6T9 (I got it back up to 4 watts) I was inspired to new heights.

The Knight T50 had been on the shelf almost a month since arriving without as much as a checkout. It was time. I had to fix some damage from the trip

first but when that was done it was time to power up. I was amazed at how smoothly the old tx tuned up into the dummy. A check into the antenna showed 32 watts out on the Bird on 7040kcs plus or minus a bit. (Contrary to the ER article of a couple months ago.) 4mil grid and 110mil Plate current with clean tuning all the way. The signal in the Drake R4B sounded good. After the WI test is over later I will venture a contact this evening. 32 watts! Tuned by the book! I will see how it acts with one of the WRL 755 vfos later also. I got two of the T50s in this deal and will have to get the other one on line also. Stay tuned.
73
de KS0F

ks0f@i1.net

Date: Mon, 11 Mar 1996 11:35:28 -0500 (EST)
From: rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu
To: penson@sci.mus.mn.us
Cc: rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu (), boatanchors@theporch.com,
Subject: Re: Gell Cells
Message-ID: <9603111635.AA100481@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu>

>
> Gang:
>
> Is it safe to assume that any given gell cell I encounter at a flea
> market or surplus store is going to be bad? I know a place in town
> selling 15 AH 12 volt gell cells for under \$10. They appear to be brand
> new, and unused. But who knows how long they have been sitting
> around...
>
> It there a quick test I could do?

Nope. You need to carry a small voltmeter with you and read the voltage.

I have been using these things surplus (I pay a buck a pop at the local junk battery emporium before they go onto the scrapping truck), and my experiences with them indicate that IFF you can get a voltmeter to measure more than 4.5 on a 6 volter or 10.5 on a 12 volter, then they are easily resurrectible. If they measure less than 4.5/10.5 volts, then one or two cells may be dry or shorted or choked up with lead sulfite.

NOTE --- these batteries are NOT gel cells (unless they so state and most of those that are are a Gates product), but are standard lead acid wet cells that have sealed rubber vent caps which vent but won't allow the addition of water (unless you trick them and water them with a syringe needle through the rubber vent cap). The Yuasa, Panasonic, etc., are ordinary sealed

lead acid batteries.

If the batteries are brand new, unused, but just old, they are probably quite good, and will last several years. On sitting for more than six months, they begin to sulfate up, and will need very long SLOW trickle charges at AH/100 for several days. It is best NOT to voltage regulate charge them but to current charge them to rated specifications for rated times. They are designed for a AH/7 charging rate, usually, for 10 hours. Consult the manufacturers charts for more details, but my experiences dictate that AH/7 is the standard charge for 125% x 7 hours or about 10 hours. For trickle charging use AH/25 to AH/100. For floating charging use AH/400. Use the proper current limiting resistances to effect the proper charging rate. I use ordinary household lamps on a 24-30vdc power supply. A 100 watt lamp gives a 1 amp charging current. A 200 watt lamp a 2 amp charging current. A 15, 10 or 7.5 watt lamp is good for trickle charging. A 4 watt xmas tree lamp is good for floating charging.

Cycle the batteries several times using an auto headlamp as the load (that is 4 amps at 12 volts), or on small batteries a brake lamp (1 amp at 12 volts). If they have been sitting for a long time, they get rather sluggish, and need cycling.

I use these things all the time as filament and plate batteries in strings up to 300 volts. I run them in wooden trays of 48 volts per tray.

If you are really interested, I have a manuscript that I put together for our HomeBrew SIG, a few years back. It is about 2 megs postscript.

Take care NOT to overcharge OR undercharge them and they are quite serviceable batteries --- not as good as Edison cells or wet nicads, but quite useable for most Boatanchorite/Glowbuggite purposes.

Also, nothing is quieter than a good regen on BATTERY power all the way. These are quite good for small filament batteries in 2/3 tube rigs.

Good Luck/Bob/NA4G
rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu

Date: Mon, 11 Mar 1996 12:09:18 -0500 (EST)
From: rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu
To: penson@sci.mus.mn.us (Chuck Penson)
Cc: rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu (), boatanchors@theporch.com,
Subject: Re: Gell Cells
Message-ID: <9603111709.AA100616@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu>

>
> rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu wrote:
>
> > Use the proper current limiting resistances to effect the
> > proper charging rate. I use ordinary household lamps on a 24-30vdc power
> > supply. A 100 watt lamp gives a 1 amp charging current.
>
> Just a quick clarification. You said 24-30 vdc supply. I should use
> this voltage and a lamp to charge a 12 volt battery?

You can use 500 volts to charge the thing if you want, as long as you use a proper series current limiting resistance. 500 Volts is perhaps a bit higher than practical. For practical charging, use about a 2x-4x voltage source compared to the battery under charge.

I had a 24v 10a transformer that I put a simple power supply together with, using a bridge and 5000mf cap. Then I take from the common HV of about 30 volts, a series of 8 lines using a lamp socket and then to a bolt for a connection at each line. That way, I can charge 8 batteries at one time. I just screw in whatever sized lamp I need for charging whatever size is any particular battery. I use small clipleads to hook up to the bolts and the battery spade lugs.

The best charging obtains through a charging resistance that will limit the current to the required rate and thus, you need to charge at some excess above the battery voltage. What that is does not matter. But, for practical convenience, I chose 2x the usual 12 volt battery or around 24-30 volts, which is fine.

Traditional battery charging panels from real radio installations (like aboard ship) used a 120 v ships DC line and charged the 120 vdc radio battery in banks of 60 volts, using, guess what --- a lamp bulb or sometimes real large resistors. Either will work just fine. Look at any of the early radio manuals for the practical particulars.

Note that the brightness of the lamp gives a good indication of how the battery is charging. A 24-30vdc source will make a 120vac lamp glow with a rich warm yellow glow, not very bright. A battery on charge, taking the proper charge, will have a weak glow, but the filament will be nicely glowing. A battery that is sulfated and not taking proper current will have a very dim glow or none at all on the bulb filament.

The only requirement is to maintain the desired current through the charging battery load. How you get there is mostly irrelevant.

I have charged the batteries off of 150vdc lines, with no problem. You just have to reach for the required sized lamp to effect the proper

charging current.

CAUTION: If you charge batteries off of greater than 75 volt sources, remember that that is sufficient voltage to be deadly. Hence, use caution.

Good Luck

Bob/NA4G

Date: Mon, 11 Mar 1996 12:49:56 -0500 (EST)
From: rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu
To: CFM@tntech.edu (Conard Murray)
Cc: rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu (), glowbugs@theporch.com
Subject: Re: 3579.545
Message-ID: <9603111749.AA100766@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu>

> Will be in Iowa next week so keep a good watch on 3579545!
> 73 and ZUT!
> de cm

1802.5 was quite good this weekend. I worked NW00/Chip quite easily, but alas did not hear too many other fellers.

I found my two trusty rusty ex-televisio 3579.545 rocks.

I will have to re-convert the HG-303 back to all band use, and then make up a breadboard using a 6146 or 2E26 or such as a rock crusher. I think about 300 volts on a 6146 or 2E26 would make a fine little rock crusher for the ex-tv-rocco's-modern-life Glowbugging QRG.....(8^}

Anyway, let us heare from the crewe aboard this fine Glowbuggin' voyage an' takes stock, bye the byes, o' wat fine etherburnin' QRG's we canst ply.

73/ZUT DE NA4G/Bob

Date: Mon, 11 Mar 1996 15:13:52 -0500 (EST)
From: rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu
To: glowbugs@theporch.com
Cc: rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu ()
Subject: Anyone on tonight?
Message-ID: <9603112013.AA100941@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu>

It is still cool/cold here, and the ol' top band is still in fine form.

For testing purposes, I propose that tonight we try the following.

1) QTR 0300Z QRG 3579R545 (let us see how bad we messeyup the XYL's TV).

2) QTR 0400Z QRG 1802R5 (standard run).

Any fellers with the ol' ex-televisio roxx throw them into the ol breadboard novice box and see if we can be eard.

I will use the HW-16 at about 25 watts and see if it blows ma's TV outta da watter(:+{}.....

Big Bertha will call on Top Band.

Now is the time to dust off all yer Glowbottles fer the summer watch. I found a real nice '47 that would make a great rock crusher on a breadboard for that ex-televisio roxx QRG. Alternatively, I could muster up 2E26 on the breadboard. That is fairly common and easy to work. There is a fine 6146 single tuber rock crusher in the '69 Handbook, for them wats wants ta gits fancies an' such.

I wonder if anyone will put together one of Fred Sutter's classic QSL card sized rigs using ol' tuffy 6L6? Them were fine smokin' lil' rigs.....(:+{}...

SEEU ZUT DE NA4G/Bob

End of GLOWBUGS Digest 127
